

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-05 FEAE-00

ERDA-07 MC-02 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /126 W

----- 031091

R 021808Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1166

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10796

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, BR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION: MEDIA
REACTION.

1. WHILE THE GERMAN PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE SIGNING OF THE NUCLEAR ACCORD ON JUNE 27, THE ATTENTION GIVEN US ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AGREEMENT HAS DIMINISHED. OFFICIAL GERMAN STATEMENTS DENYING US OBJECTIONS TO THE ACCORD SEEM TO HAVE SOFTENED PRESS ASSESSMENT OF US MOTIVATIONS, WHICH HAD TAKEN ON A HARSHER TONE IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. 'DER SPIEGEL' REPORTED ON JUNE 23 THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD GIVEN GENSCHER PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT THE US WOULD NOT OBJECT, WHILE SCHMIDT, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 25, DECLARED THAT THE USG, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT MORE VERSED ON THE MATTER THAN SOME US SENATORS, HAS NOT SAID A SINGLE WORD OF CRITICISM. HE ADDED THAT THE SOMEWHAT EXCITED DISCUSSION IN THE US STEMMED FROM THE VERY SOLID BUSINESS INTERESTS OF LARGE AMERICAN COMPANIES. MINISTER OF RESEARCH AND

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TECHNOLOGY MATTHOEFER FOLLOWED UP THESE STATEMENTS IN

A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON JUNE 29 BY NOTING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE AGREEMENT'S SAFEGUARDS WENT BEYOND IAEA REQUIREMENTS. HE CONTRASTED THE "HONORABLE" CONCERNS OF SENATOR PASTORE WITH THE SELF-INTEREST MOTIVATIONS OF GENERAL ELECTRIC AND WESTINGHOUSE.

2. PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF THESE STATEMENTS, MEDIA GAVE A FAIR HEARING TO US POSITION ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND ON THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. MOST PAPERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AMERICAN CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE WELL-FOUNDED, WITH BOTH THE "GENERAL ANZEIGER" AND "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" REFERRING TO THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF THE BRAZILIANS. WHILE SEVERAL PAPERS BLAMED THE AMERICAN REACTOR INDUSTRY FOR OBJECTIONS HEARD IN THE US AGAINST THE AGREEMENT, ALL WERE CAREFUL TO DISTINGUISH THESE OBJECTIONS FROM OFFICIAL US POLICY. THE "ANZEIGER" AND "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG" WENT ONE STEP FURTHER, ARGUING THAT SUCH INDUSTRIAL PRESSURES IN THE US WERE PERFECTLY REASONABLE IN LIGHT OF US REGULATIONS WHICH HAD HAMSTRUNG THE ABILITY OF US FIRMS TO EFFECTIVELY BID ON THE PROJECT. ONE RADIO COMMENTARY, IN SUMMING UP THE SITUATION, FELT THAT CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED.

3. VIRTUALLY ALL PAPERS HERALDED THE AGREEMENT AS A LARGE BOOST TO GERMAN INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY TO THE EXPORT SECTOR. "DIE WELT AM SONNTAG" REPORTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 300 GERMAN FIRMS WILL PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE PROJECT. SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURED URANIUM SUPPLIES. SOME MEDIA REPORTS VIEWED THE ACCORD AS A GREAT COMMERCIAL VICTORY FOR GERMANY OVER THE UNITED

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STATES, ALTHOUGH THE SMUGNESS APPARENT AMONG SOME NEWS COMMENTATORS WAS NOT WIDELY SHARED.

4. PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE SIGNING ON JUNE 27 RECEIVED LITTLE COVERAGE SINCE NEITHER GENSCHER NOR DA SILVEIRA HAD ANYTHING NEW TO SAY. DA SILVEIRA PLAYED UP THE COMMON BONDS THAT UNITE BRAZIL AND WEST GERMANY, AND EMPHASIZED THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE AGREEMENT FOR BRAZIL'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. WHEN ASKED WHY BRAZIL HAD NOT SIGNED THE NPT, HE REPLIED THAT BRAZIL OPPOSED THE POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN PRINCIPLE, AND THAT THE NPT AUTHORIZED SOME COUNTRIES TO POSSESS SUCH WEAPONS. HE FELT THAT BRAZIL'S POSITION AGAINST PROLIFERATION WAS MADE QUITE CLEAR THROUGH ITS SIGNING OF THE TLAELOLCO AGREEMENT. GENSCHER WAS ASKED AT ONE POINT IF BRAZIL MIGHT NOT FORSAKE ITS COMMITMENT AGAINST PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS IN THE SAME FASHION THAT INDIA HAD. HE REPLIED THAT THE FRG "HAD LEARNED" FROM THE CANADIAN-INDIAN AGREE-
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MENT AND HAD ENSURED THAT THERE WERE NO LOOPHOLES IN THE PRESENT AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT THE BRAZILIANS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT TRY TO FIND LOOPHOLES ANYWAY.
HILLENBRAND

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